



Fw: article re water supply

Board of Supervisors to: BOS_Legislative Assistants,
cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

09/25/2013 09:41 AM

Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 09/25/2013 08:54 AM -----

From: Daniella Sapriel <info@hummingbirdhouse.org>
To: BOARDOSUPS@CO.SLO.CA.US
Date: 09/25/2013 08:54 AM
Subject: article re water supply

Nearly One In 10 U.S. Watersheds Is 'Stressed'; Demand For Water Outpacing Supply: CIRES Study

The Huffington Post | By Matt Ferner
Posted: 09/24/2013 5:03 pm EDT | Updated: 09/25/2013 11:11 am EDT

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Nearly one in 10 watersheds in the United States is "stressed," with demand for water exceeding natural supply -- a trend that appears likely to become the new normal, according to a recent study.

"By midcentury, we expect to see less reliable surface water supplies in several regions of the United States," said [Kristen Averyt](#), associate director for science at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado-Boulder and one of the authors of [the study](#). "This is likely to create growing challenges for agriculture, electrical suppliers and municipalities, as there may be more demand for water and less to go around."

According to the research of Averyt and her colleagues, 193 of the 2,103 watersheds examined are already stressed -- meaning demand for water is higher than natural supply. The researchers found that most of the water stress is in the Western United States, where there are fewer surface water resources, compared with the East.

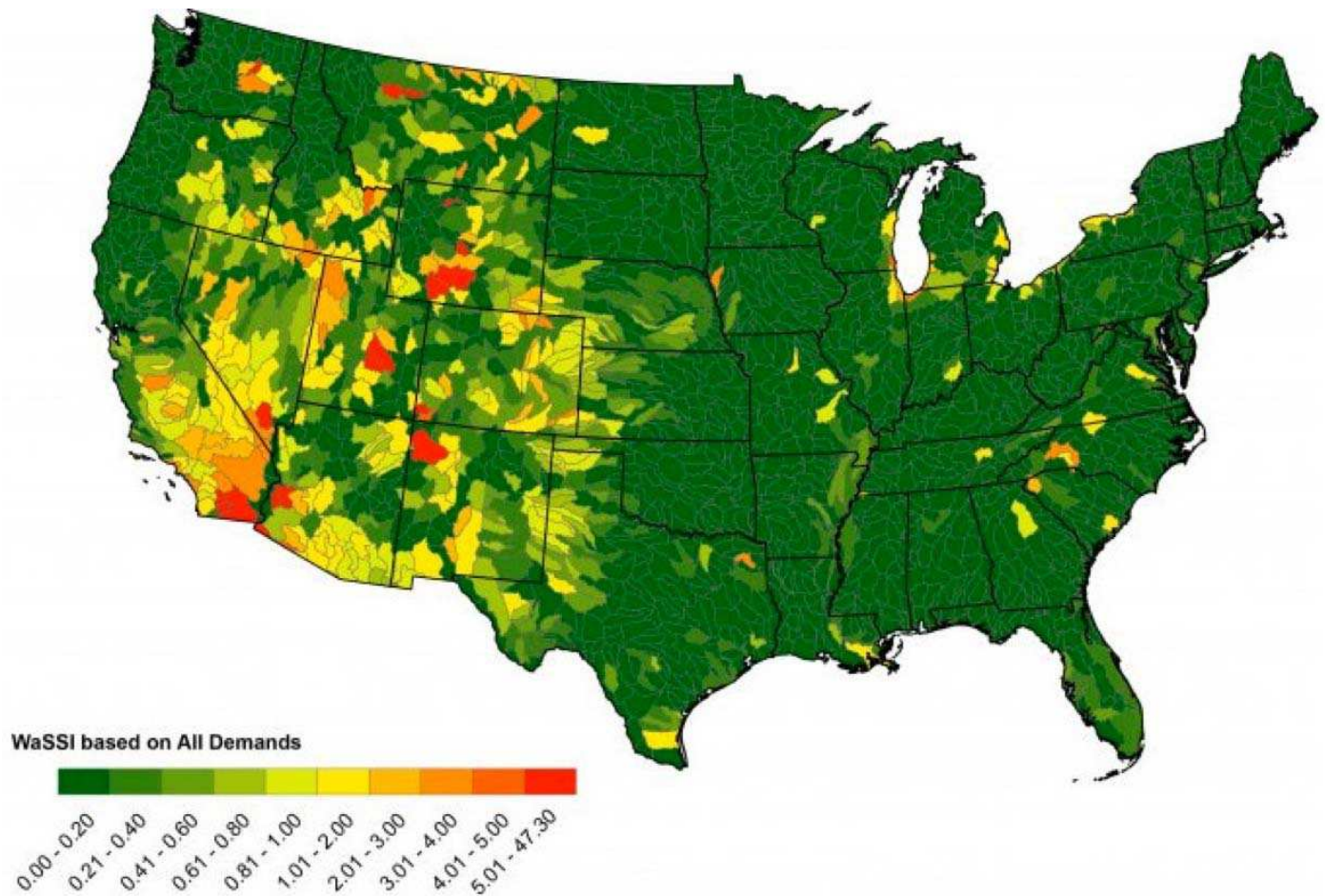
Averyt and her colleagues [write](#):

On the water supply side, surface and ground water resources have been declining in much of the U.S. Aquifers underlying the Central Valley in California and the Ogallala, which spans the area between Nebraska and Texas, are being drawn down more rapidly than they are being recharged. Approximately 23% of annual freshwater demands rely on groundwater resources, yet the volume of groundwater remaining is unclear.

Average surface water supplies are decreasing, and are expected to continue declining, particularly in the southwestern US.. Also in the southwest, water availability is defined as much by legal regimes as by physical processes. Water rights define how much and when water may be withdrawn from surface water sources irrespective of how much water may or may not be flowing in a given year. Water quality, including temperature and sediment concentration, can also constrain availability for certain users.

The researchers found agriculture requires the most water and contributes the most to regional water stress overall; the U.S. West is particularly vulnerable to water stress; and in some areas of the country, the water needs of electric power plants represent the biggest demand on water -- so much so that a single power plant "has the potential to stress surface supplies in a local area." In some densely populated regions like Southern California, cities are the greatest stress on the surface water system.

CIRES produced a map illustrating all of the stressed watersheds in the continental United States, with colors from light green to red indicating increasing levels of stress:



The researchers found that although there are trends that point toward **some stability in the water demand** nationally as increased efficiency of use offsets increased population, it remains clear that that climate change is likely to increase water demands as well as diminish water supplies across the nation -- especially in already vulnerable areas like the U.S. West, which relies heavily on water from already-stressed watersheds like the Colorado River.

Read the entire CIRES report [here](#).

The Colorado River system has long provided the American West with water -- 7 states in all that are home to almost 40 million people. But demands on the river are often cited as unsustainable, due to predicted population increases and climate change. A recent report from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation predicts a water supply and demand gap in the Colorado River of about 3.2 million-acre feet by 2060 -- roughly **five times** the amount of water that Los Angeles uses in a year.

Some **recent estimates** say that up to 20 percent of the Colorado River could dry up by 2050. However, **as [The Washington Post](#) notes**, just how sharply annual water flows will drop and just how large the future population will grow are very difficult to predict.



Fw: Urgency Ordinance

Debbie Arnold to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

09/25/2013 01:45 PM

Debbie Arnold

Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO on 09/25/2013 01:45 PM -----

From: "Laurie Gage" <fullsail@onemain.com>
To: <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 09/20/2013 07:36 PM
Subject: Urgency Ordinance

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

We strongly urge you to **extend the Urgency Ordinance** covering the Paso Robles Water Basin in order to allow all the stakeholders time to develop an equitable solution to the issue of our water.

Additionally, we ask you to strongly consider supporting the development of an equitable approach to the formation of a water district, one where everyone's vote counts equally and is not dependent on the amount of land owned.

Please scrutinize the proposals being put forward by PRAAGS in light of the fact that they seem to focus on finding supplemental water - where would that water come from and how in the world could it be distributed without immensely costly infrastructure? If PRAAGS wants to develop a supplemental water source to serve their interests, and which would allow them to cease pumping from the basin, let them have free rein.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karl and Laurie Gage

**Fw: Aquifer Overdraft****Debbie Arnold** to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

09/25/2013 02:00 PM

Debbie ArnoldSupervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO on 09/25/2013 02:00 PM -----

From: "Lynne Gamble" <lygamble@gmail.com>
To: <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 09/20/2013 04:01 PM
Subject: Aquifer Overdraft

September 12, 2013

Dear Debbie:

I talked to you at the Republican Barbeque last Sunday and I live in Paso, so I don't have a well in the county or a vineyard. You did the right thing in voting for the moratorium.

We have to keep our eye on the main problem—the overdraft of the aquifer. I have been dismayed at the misinformation and half truths that I hear on KPRL from some of our local vineyard owners—Eberle and Frankel. At least they have dropped their original claim that we have plenty of water in the aquifer. Frankel's theory that the lower lying strata is not connected to the upper shallow stratas in the basin has been debunked in Cal Coast News. I'm concerned about the PRAAGS proposal for a Water District. Their proposal, based upon Prop. 218, gives votes to people in the Water District based upon the amount of acreage they own.

This sets up a path for global companies to take control of the water in the basin. Nothing would be worse than having people from outside the county control our water. Although this has been pointed out to PRAAGS, they persist with their plan. I think that most of us can agree that outsiders in charge of our water, whereby they could sell water to developers outside the county or impose conditions or taxes on local users, large or small, would not be in the best interests of locals.

Who Owns Napa? You Just Might Be Surprised[June 27, 2001](#) | ROD SMITH | SPECIAL TO THE LA TIMES

But how all-American is Napa Valley? Asked who owns that precious Napa Valley vineyard land, most of us would think of well-known brands like Beaulieu, Beringer and Mondavi. Pushed to guess at a dark horse, we might think of Gallo.

In fact, the largest Napa Valley vineyard owners are foreign corporations.

A current Wine Business Monthly article reveals that nearly 25% of Napa County's approximately 40,000 acres of vineyards are owned or controlled by English, Australian, French, Japanese and Swiss companies. The two biggest names are Diageo—a U.K.-based giant that also owns Burger King--and the Australian beer brand Foster's.

PRAAGS promises a lot, but will they deliver?

“The California Water District is the best vehicle to access loans, grants, cost sharing and other assistance programs for projects large and small from individual wells to large projects”—PRAAGS web site.

So far, I have not seen even one California Water District that provides assistance programs for anyone. Their duties are usually clear cut—conservation and delivery of water to their constituents.

We already have global companies in the North County, and according to Tribune and wine industry magazine articles, each one plans expansion through buying properties and creating

more vineyards. We even have a billionaire water broker (Kern County Water Bank) in the mix ,Roll International, who bought Justin Winery and now has an additional 900 acre property with new grapes near Creston(Stuart Resnick). Resnick also owns Fuji Water and is being sued by Fiji for emptying their aquifer to supply bottled water to the world.

I think that Frank Mecham has dismissed this group as a viable solution, and I hope that you will too.

My second concern is the city of Paso. They are embarking on a massive housing program (over 2000 new homes) with the intent of bringing the Paso population of 29,000 up to the build-out maximum of 44,000. They intend to install massive landscaping for their Uptown Plan, and they include decorative landscape vineyards with the Ayres Hotel complex on Buenavista near the North County Cuesta College facility, and with their purple belt around the city—grape vines for landscape decoration.

This is probably Frank Mecham's area, but it's something you should know. The idea that Paso would plan to use more water by bringing in thousands of new water users while the aquifer is in overdraft is unacceptable. It's just as bad as the frenzy of planting by vineyards done before the moratorium was adopted. Paso has to be brought on board with the plans to save the aquifer. They currently use well water and water from the Salinas River bed (amount restricted by the state), and even when the Nacimiento water can be added, it has to be mixed half and half with well and river water. Paso is indeed an aquifer user and will be in the future, so they need to be part of the solution to aquifer usage. (My understanding is that Paso is relying on new water hook-ups for new housing to pay for the second installment on the \$46,000,000 water treatment plant—a risk they took depending on massive growth).

So far, we have heard nothing from Frank Mecham or the city of Paso on delaying any housing developments they have planned until the aquifer is stabilized or reconsidering their ambitious growth program.

Thanks for listening. I support you, and thought that your idea of restricting new wells was a good one.

Sincerely,
Lynne Gamble